

D4 WESTport

May 2007

Welcome to the May edition of **WESTport**, MoDOT District 4's newsletter to our Missouri General Assembly members, city and county officials, and other transportation partners from the west central region.

You will receive monthly updates of District 4 projects and activities throughout the regular General Assembly session, and periodic updates during the rest of the year. We hope you will find the information useful and enlightening.

Our District 4 staff is always available to answer your questions and address constituent concerns. See our list of contacts at the bottom of this newsletter for telephone numbers and other information, or visit our district website at www.modot.org/kansascity/

Route 150 Bridge Replacement Under Way in Greenwood

The Route 150 bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad and Big Creek in Greenwood will be restricted to one lane, with one-way alternating traffic controlled by signal lights, through November.

Through traffic accustomed to using Route 150 in Greenwood is urged to seek alternative routes for the next six months. Loads larger than standard width must take alternative routes.

The lane restriction is expected to continue through mid-November. APAC - Kansas, Inc., the contractor for MoDOT, will begin demolition of a portion of the old bridge over the stream and railroad tracks this month. Construction of the new bridge will begin soon thereafter.

One-way, alternating traffic over the old bridge will be controlled by signals at each end of the bridge, timed to allow more westward flow during morning peak periods and more eastward flow during afternoon rush hours. Motorists should expect long delays at times.

Once a portion of the new bridge is completed late this year, the bridge will re-open with narrowed lanes allowing two-way traffic on the new structure while the contractor removes the last remnants of the old bridge and completes the other half of the new bridge. The new bridge is expected to fully open by mid-November 2008.

Downtown Loop Improvements Gain Momentum

Have you ever started a little fixer-upper project that just kept growing?

MoDOT projects to replace four bridges and rehabilitate another 13 in Kansas City's Downtown Loop were already under way when an event on the other side of the state added some items to the work list.

A portion of sidewalk fell from a bridge in St. Louis, which launched a program of urgent repairs on bridges over MoDOT's highways in the Downtown Loop. MoDOT and the city of Kansas City were already working on a design to treat and resurface bridges, improve pedestrian accommodations on the south side of the loop and add aesthetic side rails to complement ongoing redevelopment in the area.

The urgent bridge work, combined with the aesthetic improvements, means that five of the bridges will receive new, wider sidewalks as part of their rehabilitation. Put everything together and it means that more than \$26 million in road and bridge improvements in the Downtown Loop will be completed by this October

Traffic will be restricted on five bridges over I-670 into the fall. Crews began around-the-clock construction in mid-April to accelerate repairs on some of those structures.

MoDOT maintenance crews began bridge rehabilitation, deck repair and preparation for decorative railing on the Main Street bridge in early April. The work required periodic lane closures, but the improvements were completed in about a week.

Work on the six-lane Grand Avenue bridge will restrict lanes in late May, but crews can keep some traffic flowing on the bridge throughout most of the work. The other three bridges -- at Baltimore, Walnut and McGee -- will be closed for about two weeks, each at different times. The last closure is expected to occur from mid-June until early July.

Work on bridge railings, removing old sidewalks, pouring new, wider sidewalks and repairing and resurfacing all five bridges, will come via a contract to be let in May. The work will require various lane closures for several days at a time on each bridge and continue into fall until work is completed.

Two other downtown projects that began in 2006 are still in progress. The first project is replacing bridges at Truman Road and at Oak and Locust streets with structures featuring eight-foot-wide sidewalks and retaining walls along I-670 to provide for more lanes. The \$13.8 million contract should be completed by Sept. 1.

The second project -- a \$7.5 million effort to rehabilitate 13 bridges and resurface highway lanes on the west side of the loop -- is more than half done. Southbound lanes that have been closed since mid-winter are expected to reopen in May.

Another \$3.1 million contract will resurface I-670 on the south side of the Loop. That work will take place this summer.

Pickup Drivers Encouraged to Buckle Up

Studies have shown that pickup truck drivers and their passengers are among those least likely to wear a seat belt. The number is higher among men ages 18-34 – only 66 percent of Missouri drivers in that age group use seat belts.

During a May 2 press conference at the Ford Motor Company Plant in Claycomo, representatives from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, MoDOT, KDOT, and local law enforcement answered questions and reported the grim facts:

- Pickups are more likely to roll over during an accident, creating a higher risk for occupants to be ejected from the vehicle.
- 85 percent of the people who died in pickup truck crashes last year were not buckled in.
- Individuals are 31 times more likely to be killed in a crash if they do not wear a seat belt.

During the Buckle Up in Your Truck Campaign now under way, Missouri will focus on increasing safety belt use among pickup truck occupants. Local law enforcement agencies across the state will be looking for people in who are not buckled up. If you are pulled over for a traffic offense and are not wearing your seat belt, you will likely get a ticket. The enforcement effort precedes the annual Click it or Ticket safety belt campaign.

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